

Important Notice from the City of Milwaukee about Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Creditable Coverage Notice:

This notice is for all members covered under the City of Milwaukee's Health benefits plan. **However, this notice only applies to employees, spouses and dependents who are eligible for Medicare prescription drug benefits.**

Please read this notice carefully. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the City of Milwaukee UnitedHealthcare and your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

Two important things to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. The City of Milwaukee has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by UnitedHealthcare is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15 to December 7. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you are a Medicare retiree covered under the City's health benefits and decide to join a Medicare drug plan outside of the City's UnitedHealthcare MedicareRx Group Part D Plan, your City Part D coverage may be affected. The City's UnitedHealthcare EPO Choice and PPO Choice Plus Health plans for Medicare retirees include a Group Part D plan (PDP). If you join another Part D plan it will interfere with your City coverage. You can only be in one PDP at a time. If you are an active employee who is Medicare eligible, you can join a Medicare drug plan and it will not affect your current City of Milwaukee health benefits coverage. Your pharmacy benefits would be coordinated between the City's primary medical health plan and Medicare.

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current City of Milwaukee UnitedHealthcare coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back until the next annual enrollment period or when you experience a qualified change in status event.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with City of Milwaukee UnitedHealthcare and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information about This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact the numbers listed below for further information. **NOTE:** This notice will be available each year and before the next open enrollment period during which you can join a Medicare drug plan and/or if your coverage through City of Milwaukee UnitedHealthcare changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

To Learn More about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

About the Creditable Coverage Notice:

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage Notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Contact Office: DER Benefits/Employees' Retirement System (ERS)
Address: 200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone Number: 414-286-3184/414-286-3557